

In the Claims:

Please withdraw claims 1-12, 20 and 26-30. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An emitter comprising:
an electron supply layer;
an oxide layer on said electron supply layer defining an emission area; and
an emission layer in the emission area and in contact with said electron supply layer, said emission layer being formed by a rapid thermal process and selected from a group comprising SiO_2 , SiO_xN_y and combinations thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 1, wherein said emission layer is in the approximate range of 50-150Å.
3. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 2, wherein said emission layer comprises an approximate 20Å SiO_2 layer and a SiO_xN_y layer in the approximate range of 30 – 130 Å.
4. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 1, wherein said emission layer comprises an approximate 20Å SiO_2 layer and a SiO_xN_y layer in the approximate range of 30 – 130 Å.
5. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 1, wherein the emitter includes means for creating an electrical field to stimulate tunneling.
6. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 5, wherein the means for creating comprises a metal contact structure and a thin metal layer disposed over said metal contact structure and said emission layer.
7. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 6, wherein said thin metal layer is selected from a group comprising Pt, Au, Ta and combinations thereof.
8. (Withdrawn) The emitter according to claim 7, wherein said thin metal layer is approximately 50 - 100Å.